

Saddleworth White Rose Society

in the County of York

Newsletter 52 Winter 2011/2012

This Newsletter following Yorkshire Day would normally have been devoted to just that, however under the circumstances we feel that we should make everyone aware of the intended local admin boundary changes and ask everyone to support Saddleworth Parish Council in their proposal, which we feel would be the best option for Saddleworth.

New Parliamentary Constituencies

Mike Buckley & Alan Roughley

The government has set up a Boundaries Commission to redraw the constituency boundaries, to make them more equal in size, between 70,000 and 80,000 voters, and reduce the number of MP's to 600. The North West England Region will lose seven constituencies.

The Commissioners first shot at redrawing the patchwork has now been published and almost every constituency has been changed. Sadly it is proposed that Saddleworth should continue being firmly lumped in with central Oldham, even more so than at present in fact; Shaw & Crompton have now been replaced by Royton South and Coldhurst.

A big contrast with the old Colne Valley constituency, linking Slaithwaite and Marsden to Saddleworth for more than 100 years, or the short lived Littleborough and Saddleworth arrangement. This latest reconfiguration will mean Saddleworth will always be out voted by some of the most deprived inner borough wards in the country.

Once this round of consultations ends in December 2011, the Commissioners will put out a revised constituency map for the North West and invite further comments before they

make their final recommendations to Parliament in October 2012.

In response Saddleworth Parish Council, have endorsed an alternative proposal submitted by White Rose Members, Mike Buckley and Alan Roughley.

The Commission's proposals are shown in the map overleaf together with the Saddleworth Parish Council alternative.

They are very reluctant to see a new constituency crossing the regional boundary, so the options are very limited. Move just one ward into another constituency to make the numbers right and there is a ripple effect across a number of others.

But the Commissioners do listen! Some years ago, our own White Rose Society's suggestions regarding Saddleworth's ward boundaries were accepted, much to the amazement and annoyance of the political parties, who were each trying to redraw ward boundaries to their own advantage!

The Saddleworth Parish Council alternative places Saddleworth in the centre of a new rural South Pennines constituency consisting of small towns and villages nestling in the folds of the Pennines. We need our MP to concentrate on our problems, not be swamped by the severe but quite different needs of the wards clustered round Oldham town centre.

Another feature of the Parish Council proposal is that it unites other communities split by the Commission's proposals. Royton, Chadderton, Heywood and the town of Oldham are now in one constituency rather than split down the middle.

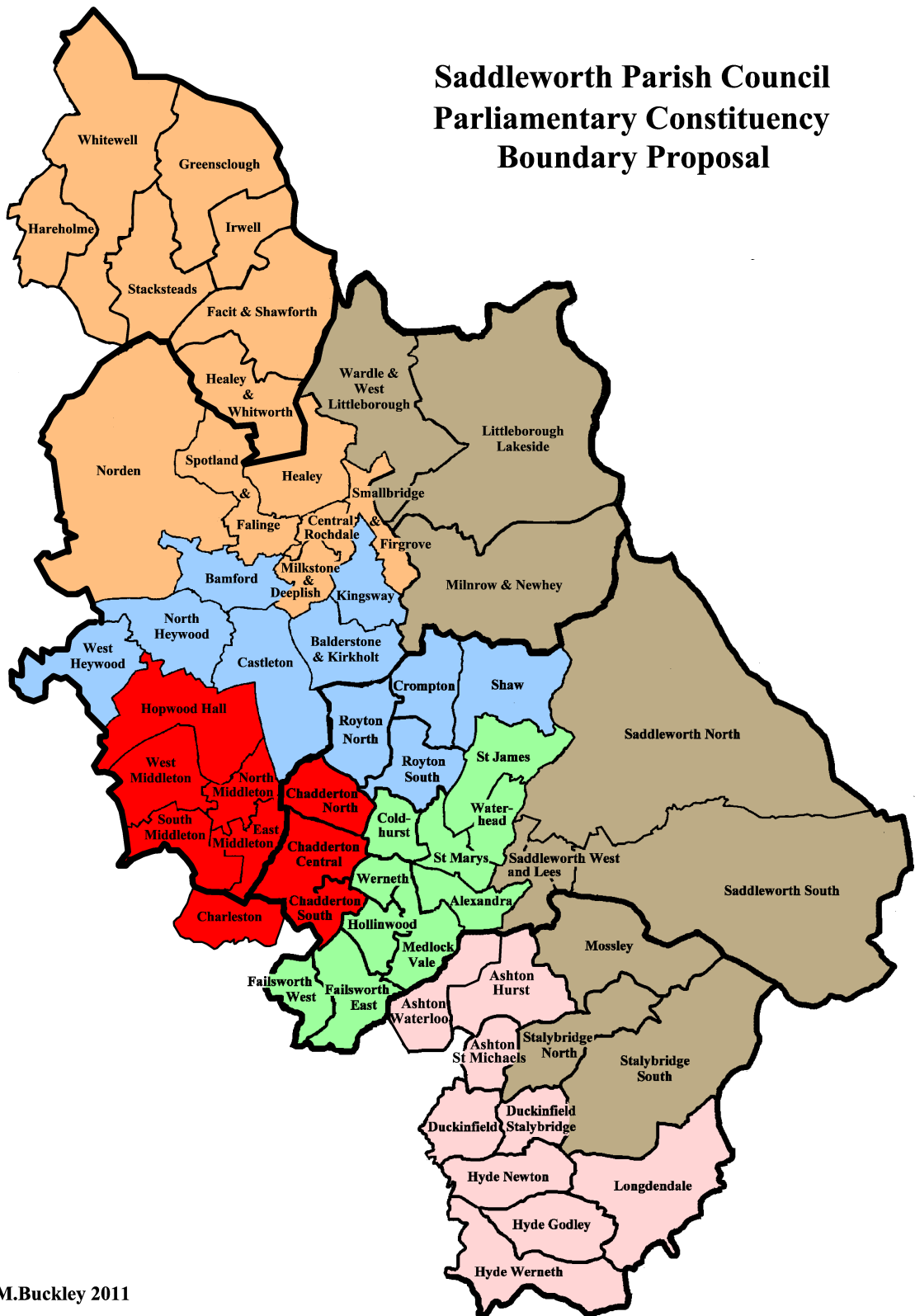
White Rose member, Bill Cullen, Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council and Mike Buckley presented the proposal to a meeting

of the Commission at Manchester on 11th October. It was well received by several of other parties present but the ultimate decision is in the hands of the Commissioners.

Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Commission Initial Proposal



Saddleworth Parish Council Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Proposal



We acknowledge that this proposal is not ideal but it is a move in the right direction. At this point in time the Boundary Commission will not consider admin areas crossing EU boundaries. However, we trust that Saddleworth people will find the proposals put forward by our own Council are the best option for Saddleworth at the moment.

SWRS AGM

This years AGM will be held at Uppermill Conservative Cub on Tuesday 22 Nov at 8.00 pm. Potato pie and cheese and onion pie will be available at £5 per head. Subscriptions for the year 2011/ 2012 will be due, cheques should be made payable to Saddleworth White Rose Society and handed to or forwarded to The Treasurer: Mr Michael Hall, 6 Bridgefield Crescent, Springhead, Saddleworth, Yorkshire OL4 4PD £5 single membership, £8 family (up to 3 members) and £8 corporate membership.

The speaker will be Mr Michael Fox.

The Tunnel End event 18 Sep 2011



Photo courtesy M Fieldind

Cllr Bill Cullen Chair Saddleworth Council with Consort Mrs Enid Firth, Cllr Richard Knowles and Mrs Knowles Mayor and Mayoress of the joint Borough Council. Cllr Knowles is also a Saddleworth councillor on the Boro Council

As stated elsewhere Newsletter 53 will report on Yorkshire Day. Meanwhile, lady committee members and ordinary members have been busy running SWRS stalls to raise cash for the County Boundary signs. The accompanying photographs were taken at Tunnel End, Diggle, Yorkshire. They also had a stand at the YCwA meeting.



Photo courtesy M Fieldind

Elizabeth Bardsley and Kath Aries with two St John Ambulance members at the SWRS stand.

A Lady of Saddleworth

Mrs Annie Lees

It is with great sorrow that we report the passing of Mrs Annie Lees on 06 Jul 2011 aged 88. In true Saddleworth style she worked in the woollen industry. She was extremely popular and a well respected member of the Saddleworth branch of St John Ambulance Brigade of which she was President at the time of her passing. We offer our condolences to her daughter Kathleen and husband David, also son Edward and wife Sharron and grandchildren John and wife Julie, Donna, Ben and Sam and great grandchildren . She was buried at Saddleworth Church on 13 Jul 2011. A son Andrew died in a motorcycle accident in Cyprus whilst serving in the army in 1978.

Saddleworth Branch YCWA meetings at the Methodist Hall, Uppermill 7.30pm

26 Oct Cassique Clothes Party and for anyone looking for Christmas presents the SWRS stall will be there offering ties, shirts , cuff links, brooches, wall plaque etc.etc.

30Nov Cake Decorating, Marlene

Dec No Meeting